

Hollywood: Her Story July 2022 ENewsletter Movies about Queens and Royalty

In June of 2022, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated seventy years as the Queen of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. We thought this would be a great reason to highlight films featuring Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria, and other royalty.



Bette Davis played Queen Elizabeth I when she starred in the 1955 movie *The Virgin Queen* which focuses on the relationship between the Queen and Sir Walter Raleigh. Named one of the greatest actresses in movie history by the American Film Institute, Davis was the first female president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and was also the first woman to receive a Lifetime Award from the American Film Institute. She won two Best Actress Oscars over the course of her career – *Dangerous* (1936) and *Jezebel* (1939) – and received another nine nominations. She often played unsympathetic characters. Costume designer **Mary Wills** shared an Oscar nomination for Best Costume for a Color Production for her work on the movie. She had five other Oscar nominations and won the Best Costume Design Oscar in 1963 for *The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm*.

Wills had a four-decade career and was known as “the fabulous Miss Wills” due to her clothing designs. Her first job was as a sketch artist for the 1939 movie *Gone with the Wind*.



Considered the greatest female movie star of the classic Hollywood era, **Katharine Hepburn** won the Best Actress Oscar for the 1968 movie *The Lion in Winter*. She played Eleanor of Aquitaine, the wife of Henry II, who was the monarch of England in the late 1100s. Over her career, Hepburn won three Best Actress Oscars and was nominated another eight times. She has been featured on a U.S. postage stamp. Hepburn said, “If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.” She also said, “If you always do what interests you, at least one person is pleased.” Costume designer **Margaret Furse** received an

Oscar nomination for Best Costume for this movie. She won the 1970 Oscar in that category for *Anne of the Thousand Days*. Her other Oscar nominations were for *The Mudlark*, *Becket*, *Scrooge*, and *Mary, Queen of Scots*. In honor of her accomplishments as a British citizen, the National Portrait Gallery in London, England houses a painting of her.

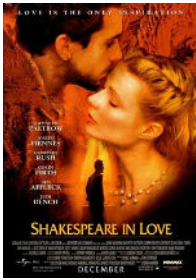


Vanessa Redgrave portrayed Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland and **Glenda Jackson** portrayed Queen Elizabeth I in the 1971 biographical movie *Mary, Queen of Scots*. A Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Redgrave is both a stage and film actress. She is one of the few to have won a Tony, Emmy and Oscar. She was nominated for the Best Actress Oscar for her work in this movie, won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *Julia* (1978) and received four other acting nominations. Like Dame Redgrave, Jackson has also won a Tony, Emmy and Oscar. Her Best Actress Oscars were for *Women in Love* (1971) and *A Touch of Class* (1974). She is also a politician and served as a Member of Parliament from 1992 to 2015. As noted above, **Margaret Furse** was nominated for the Best Costume Design Oscar for this movie.

Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire **Judi Dench**, who is regarded as one of Britain’s best actresses, played Queen Victoria in the 1997 movie *Mrs. Brown*. The movie tells the story of Queen Victoria after the death of her husband Prince Albert and the relationship she had with John Brown, who had been a servant of her husband. Dame Dench will play Queen Victoria again in *Victoria & Abdul* and Queen Elizabeth I in *Shakespeare in Love*, as we further



discuss below. She won the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award for her role in *Shakespeare in Love* and has been nominated an additional seven times, including for her work in *Mrs. Brown*. British makeup artist **Lisa Westcott** shared her first Best Makeup Oscar nomination for *Mrs. Brown*. She was nominated in the same category for *Shakespeare in Love* and shared the Best Actress Oscar for Makeup and Hairstyling in 2013 for *Les Misérables*.

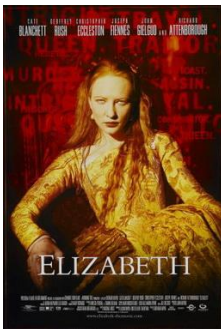


The 1998 movie *Shakespeare in Love* received thirteen Oscar nominations and received seven Oscars. Dame **Judi Dench** won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar and **Lisa Westcott** was nominated for Best Makeup. **Gwyneth Paltrow** won the Best Actress Oscar for the movie. She is an actress and singer who has also won Emmys. Producer **Donna Gigliotti** shared the Best Picture Oscar for the movie. She has been nominated for three other Best Picture Oscars. British makeup artist **Julie Dartnell**, who has worked in the film industry for forty years, was in the makeup department for the movie. In 2013, she shared the Best Makeup and Hairstyling Oscar for *Les Misérables*. British set decorator **Jill Quartier** shared the Best Art Direction, Set Decoration Oscar for the movie. She was nominated again in 2011 in

the same category for *Quills*. Costume designer **Sandy Powell** won her first of three Best Costume Oscars for the movie. Powell said, “The clothes are always made for characters. The job is not making actors look nice in clothes. It’s about making actors believable as their characters, about making the story work.”



Dame **Judi Dench** starred as an older Queen Victoria in the 2017 movie *Victoria & Abdul*. Irish costume designer **Consolata Boyle** received the third of her three Best Costume Design Oscar nominations for this movie. She had previously been nominated for *The Queen* (2007) and *Florence Foster Jenkins* (2017).



Cate Blanchett portrayed a young Queen Elizabeth I in the 1998 movie *Elizabeth*, for which she received a Best Actress Oscar nomination. She won her first Oscar in 2005 for Best Supporting Actress for her work in *The Aviator*. Blanchett won the Best Actress Oscar in 2014 for *Blue Jasmine*. Considered one of the leading film editors in the world, **Jill Bilcock** edited the movie. She was nominated for the 2002 Best Film Editing Oscar for *Moulin Rouge!* Bilcock has been selected for membership in American Cinema Editors. British makeup artist Jenny **Shircore** shared the Best Makeup Oscar for the movie. She was nominated again in 2010 for *The Young Victoria*. British costume designer **Alexandra Byrne** was nominated for the Best Costume Design Oscar for the movie. She was nominated two additional times before winning the 2008 Best Costume Design Oscar for *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*.

Women in front of and behind the camera make the movies that we all welcome into our hearts and homes. Women across all the areas of moviemaking from actress to animator, editor to stuntwoman, costume designer to screenwriter, producer to director have contributed to the success of the movie industry since its founding in the 1890s. Help us celebrate these women who are written into movie history in *Hollywood: Her Story*.

Jill S. Tietjen and Barbara Bridges

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